

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AS-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 ERDA-05 NRC-05 ACDA-07 IO-13 /087 W

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P R 230852Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4682

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5228

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, KS, US

SUBJECT: ACADEMICIANS CONTINUE NUCLEAR OPTION DISCUSSION

REF: SEOUL 5037 (DTG 170515Z JUN 77)

1. SINCEFULURRY OF ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS REPORTED
REFTEL ON POSSIBILITIES OF ROK NUCLEAR ARMAMENT, DISCUSSION
OF THIS POSSIBILITY HAS RECEDED IN KOREAN PRESS. THERE
HAVE BEEN CONTINUING PASSING REFERENCES TO POSSIBLE NECESSITY
OF THIS STEP IN VARIOUS EDITORIALS HOWEVER, AND ONE ADDITIONAL
ADVOCATE FOR NUCLEAR ARMAMENT HAS APPEARED INDICATING SUBJECT
MAY BE SOMEWHAT DORMANT FOR TIME BEING BUT IS NOT DEAD.

2. ACCORDING TO JUNE 22 KOREA HERALD, PROFESSOR MIN
BYONG-CHUN, DIRECTOR OF TONGKUK (BUDDHIST) UNIVERSITY'S
NATIONAL SECURITY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, STATED DURING A
SEMINAR THAT THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA SHOULD POSSESS ENOUGH
"NUCLEAR MIGHT" TO DETER NORTH KOREA AND THE SOVIET
UNION FROM ATTEMPTING MILITARY ACTION IN THE WAKE OF
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AMERICAN MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM THE KOREAN PENINSULA.
THE PROFESSOR ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE ABSENCE OF NUCLEAR
WEAPONS WOULD TEND TO CONTAIN ANY FUTURE NORTH-SOUTH
CONFLICT BELOW THE LIMITED WAR THRESHHOLD BUT ARGUES THAT
THIS WOULD GIVE RUSSIANS TOO FREE A HAND SINCE THEY
WOULD NOT HAVE TO FACE THE UNITED STATES IN SUCH A CASE.

3. PROFESSOR MIN ALSO ADVOCATED AN INCREASED CONVENTIONAL SECURITY BUILD-UP BY THE ROK; MAINTENANCE OF US NAVAL AND AIR FORCE IN THE AREA; STEADY EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW AND PEKING; AND NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THE MOSCOW-PEKING-PYONGYANG BLOC AND THE WASHINGTON-TOKYO-SEOUL GROUP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL05228
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770224-0417
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SEOUL 5037
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2056582
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACADEMICIANS CONTINUE NUCLEAR OPTION DISCUSSION
TAGS: MARR, MNUC, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9605cf77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009